

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**Announcement of an extension of the public comment period for the draft TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for Powell River including the North Fork Powell River, the South Fork Powell River, Butcher Fork, Wallen Creek, Bailey's Trace, Ely Creek, Gin Creek, Lick Branch, Puckett Creek, and Stone Creek in Lee and Wise County, Virginia until March 15, 2010.**

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To extend the public comment period for the draft report for the Powell River and tributaries in Southwest Virginia.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: DEQ has identified sources of pollutants affecting the aquatic organisms and sources of bacteria contamination in the waters of the Powell River including the North Fork Powell River, the South Fork Powell River, Butcher Fork, Wallen Creek, Bailey's Trace, Ely Creek, Gin Creek, Lick Branch, Puckett Creek, and Stone Creek in Lee and Wise County, Virginia. The stream is impaired for failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms and failure to meet the *Recreational Use* because of fecal coliform bacteria violations, as well as violating of the E. coli standard.

The draft study identifies the pollutants impairing the aquatic community and total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, have been developed for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. DEQ also determined the sources of bacteria contamination and developed a TMDL for bacteria. To restore water quality, contamination levels must be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes public meetings and a public comment period once the study report is drafted. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, January 29, 2010 to March 15, 2010. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW DRAFT TMDL REPORT: The draft TMDL report on the impaired waters is available from the contact below or on the DEQ web site at [www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl).

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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